FATHER DARKLEAF

By The Editor

(Continued from Page 1)

fered to loan him his suit for the trip to Powhatan. The judge, deeply touched, then brought up the fact that he had no funds to make the trip, and Col. McLaughlin, another trustee, said that he knew a lady living in Lexington, who owned a farm in Buckingham, and who recently had received some funds from the sale of tobacco, and that he would seek to have her loan the money to the college.

Thus equipped and supplied, the trip was made and Robert E. Lee was offered the presidency of Washington College.

"How wonderful are the blessed pages of history. On September 18, 1865, Robert E. Lee rode his famous horse, Traveller, into Lexington. He had accepted! He was to build a great tradition at Lexington, Virginia—and it was established that after adversity the great and noble thing to do was to rebuild youth, a new generation to march forward. And so it was no wonder that in due time the name of old Liberty Hall Academy, which had been changed to Washington College, was changed again: this time to the University of Washington and Lee."

(Note: General Lee's famous horse is spelled with two "l's." The general always used the old English spelling of the word: Traveller).

BETHLEHEM
The Church of the Nativity

Everyone Wants To See Just One 'Good Old' Yule

"How I would long to see just one more 'old-fashioned Christmas!'"

These are familiar words at this time of the year. Before the Yuletide season is over, some member of the family, grandfather or grandmother, probably, is certain to pass that remark, as they have done each Christmas of the past.

And yet, if we search back into the records . . . to the turn of the century, say . . . we find that, even then, someone was wishing for "an old-fashioned Christmas." It is then that we realize that the celebration of the birth of Christ has not changed greatly with the passage of centuries. Basically, Christmas is the same, year after year. It is only the world and the people who are not the same.

He may not admit it, but when grandfather first began to raise a family, he overheard his elders musing over the changing Christmas customs and heralding the approach to "complete commercialism" of the Yuletide celebration. Even then they were worried.

No one can deny that Christmas has been greatly "commercialized" since the days of early America. Yet, so has the entire nation. In the days of our ancestors there were none of the vast trading centers and commercial marts that we know today. Our very way of life has been greatly changed with modernization. Our holidays, and Christmas is the principal one, have managed to keep abreast.

Still, without reservation, Christmas is basically unchanged in its true meaning as a celebrating of the birth of the Christ-Child redeemer, come to save the world. No matter how great or how small the presents piled beneath the tree, each Christian heart never ceases to remember that Christmas is Christ's day.

Tradition Says Tree Originated in Egypt

The Christmas tree, now almost a universal symbol, probably came to America from Germany, although tradition has it that Christmas trees originated in Egypt. The palm tree is supposed to put forth a branch every month, and a spray of this tree, with 12 shoots on it, was used in Egypt at the time of the winter solstice as a symbol of the year completed.

German writers mention the tree as early as 1605. The German prince Albert, consort of Queen Victoria, introduced the Christmas tree in England when he had a tree for his daughter.

Basilica of the Nativity One of Oldest Churches

The basilica of the Nativity at Bethlehem is one of the oldest churches in Christendom, having been built 1,620 years ago.

As it stands today it represents the original building erected by the Emperor Constantine and restorations and additions made under Justinian.

It is surrounded by three convents of separate faiths, Greek, Latin and Armenian. All three have the privilege of worshipping in the Grotto of the Nativity, and, suprisingly enough, all three celebrate Christmas on separate occasions.

Virginia's corn production is expected lower than last year's total.

Latest traffic deaths send Virginia 1951 total to over 950.

Stonewall

Stonewall, Dec. 17.- We are sure having some real winter weather. Looks like old Santa will have the weather to use his sleigh.

I want to wish our Editor a very, very happy Birthday on Friday, December 21. I guess he is 16 or more years old! Hope he will spend many many more happy days to come.

Mr. and Mrs. O. R. Turnes and Mrs. C. M. Stratton attended the first quarterly conference at Trinity Church on last Saturday. They were from Bethel Church.

Mr. and Mrs. W. R. Jobe and children and Mr. and Mrs. H. W. Brown and children, of Gladstone, spent the week-end with Mr. and Mrs. O. R. Turnes.

Mr. and Mrs. Parks Jennings are leaving Friday to spend Christmas with the Rev. and Mrs. Charles Spain in Foley, Alabama. Mrs. Spain is their daughter, Agnes.

The Rev. Wingfield will have one of his sons to fill his pulpit at Bethel Church on next Sunday at 10 A. M., and another one to preach at Trinity at 11 o'clock. He will also be there to welcome all the friends of the community.

Mr. and Mrs. Henry Beard and son, Lawrence were dinner guests of her parents, Mr. and Mrs. E. L. Chick on Sunday.

So many of our young folks around here will be coming home this week for Christmas.

Mr. and Mrs. Howlett Drinkard expect to major to Staunton Friday day to bring their son, Lee home from school for the holiday.

Mrs. Irby Wheeler and Mrs. Jack Caldwell, Sr. and their families attended the funeral of their cousin, Mr. J. K. Pulliam at Appomattox last week.

Best wishes for our pa[per] and his fine wife, for a M[erry] Christmas and a Happy [New] Also to every reader of the [Times-] Virginian!

We hope your hearts are singing carols of joy

1951

Almond Grocery Co.

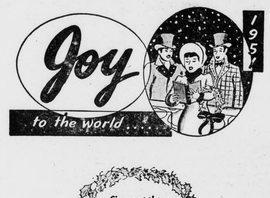
APPOMATTOX, VA.

Here's a spirited hope that you have a wonderful holiday

Western Auto Associate Store

T. T. Martin, Proprietor

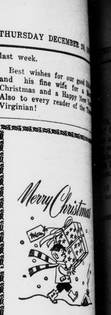
Appomattox, Va.



Sing out the wonderful tidings again this Christmas

J. E. Jamerson & Sons

Appomattox, Va.



Have yourselves a wonderful holiday

1951

Arrington's Grocery

S. C. Arrington

Appomattox, Va.

Our hope, this year as always, is for lasting peace on earth.

For our many good friends we wish only that they may share fully in it.

R. E. WILBUN

APPOMATTOX, VA.

The A. H. S. Newscast

By Peggy Ellen Cole

Everybody as excited as I only five more days 'til Christ- only one more day 'til we of school. Everybody is big plans for the holidays of parties and entertain-

The home rooms are planning parties Friday afternoon.

Classmates will exchange gifts, sing carols, play games and have refreshments. Before the parties, however, most of the classes will take baskets to some needy family. The Senior class will deliver two or three baskets and then spend the rest of the afternoon singing carols.

The weather has really co-operated in helping us get the Christmas spirit this year. We had our first snow Friday, which caused quite a bit of excitment. During lunch period snowballs were flying thick and fast but the snow was beginning to melt. Tuesday's ice and snow brought on another excited day. There were only a few people in school so we spent our time decorating for Christmas. The weatherman predicts more snow, so who can tell, we may have a white Christmas.

All of the usually bright and smiling faces were clouded Monday afternoon and I'll bet you're already guessing why. Report cards were given out and for a little while they took the joy out of Christmas, but not for long. We all decided that we'd really study hard the next six weeks.

The two basketball games scheduled for this week had to be called off because of the weather. The games will be played at a later date.

The Junior Class will present this year the annual Christmas Pageant, under the direction of Mrs. Morris and Miss Holley. The pageant was presented to the student body on Wednesday and will be presented to the P.-T. A. later in the week. The costumes and music are better than ever and show that the Juniors have really been working.

The Seniors took their state test last Thursday morning. We didn't have time to get nervous because we didn't know about it until time to take it. I'm sure that we all found out that it wasn't as bad as it sounded.

On Thursday, also, Eric Lund, WLVA farm reporter, recorded a broadcast at the school. There were talks by members of the different clubs and songs by the Junior class. It was a "Salute to Appomattox." The program was played on the radio later and many of us heard it.

The Home Ec girls are busy as been working on the Cinderella Ball. Don't forget, it's December 28 from 8:00 to 12:00, with music by The Vagabonds. Also, don't forget to vote for the girl you would like to see as Cinderella.

All of my space is taken up, so I'll say to you, Merry Christmas, and may God bless you.

High School Basketball

Appomattox High School will open its home schedule at Concord tonight at 7:30 o'clock, when both boys and girls basketball teams will play New London High School in league games.

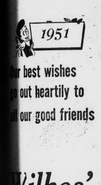
These games should be very close. New London has graduated some of their better players, while A. H. S. has the same boys team as last year and should show improvement.

Appomattox won the only games played so far, defeating both boys and girl's teams from Pamplin. The last two games, with Brookville and Naruna have been postponed until February due to bad weather on the nights the games were to have been played.

The games tonight will the last before the Christmas holidays.

The first game after Christmas will be with Brookville at Concord.

Give a subscription to the home county newspaper!



Wishing you best wishes and heartily to all our good friends

Wilkes' Jewelers

APPOMATTOX, VA.

GREETINGS FROM "THE GANG" at "The Hardware"

Sonny Harwood
Tom Coleman
Herbert Richardson
Thelma Caldwell
Jake Shuford
Dick Bass
Robert Morris
Ray Ferguson
Dick Ferguson
David Lipes
Berk Evans
Jack Marshall
Fleming Drinkard
Vergie Fleshman, Col.
Cal Austin, Col.

Appomattox Hardware Co.

Cut out this coupon!

Important Christmas Message

A Message from SANTA CLAUS to Appomattox Children 11 years old or under!

TO ALL LITTLE GIRLS:

Santa Claus has a beautiful new Christmas DRESS for YOU. Just come by the APPOMATTOX GARMENT CO., INC., Highway, 460, Appomattox, this Friday, December 21, between the hours of 12 and 1, and bring this coupon, and Santa will give you a dress.

TO ALL LITTLE BOYS:

Take this coupon by SPENCER'S DRUG STORE, Appomattox, any time Friday, December 21, and present it to a clerk, who will give you FREE your choice of Ice Cream or fountain drink!

A Merry, Merry Christmas to all!

SANTA CLAUS.

Origin of Gift-Giving Told in Many Versions

There are many interesting versions as to how the custom of gift giving at Christmas time started.

Some believe that it all came from ancient England, where it was once custom to hang kissing rings in the great halls. These rings were decorated with mistletoe and were the key for a pleasant holiday pastime. It is said that the young knights and ladies would come to the kissing rings with Christmas roses for their secret sweetheart.

This started it all. Now gift giving is traditional.

DEVOTION . . . Christmas is not so much a time of receiving as it is a time for giving. These children, in their prayers, are giving by far the best gift of them all—themselves.

Tree Decoration Has Ancient Source In Arabian Legend

When you fasten the ornaments to your Christmas tree this year you will be commemorating a centuries-old Arabian legend that relates how plants blossomed and flowered and trees miraculously bore ripened fruit on the eve of the first Christmas.

In fact, the Christmas tree itself stems from the story of a Scandinavian "sacred" tree and Martin Luther, a German, is said to have brought the first one indoors and decorated it for the Yule season in the early 16th century.

These are only two of more than a score of legends from which today's Christmas symbols and customs stem. According to Jeannette Lee, who has probed their origin for nearly a dozen years, the American Christmas symbols — from candles and bells to kissing under the mistletoe—have no common nationality. They have come from all parts of the world.

Mrs. Lee, who is supervisor of creative art for a greeting card company, constantly utilizes the traditions and emblems of the festival as ornaments for Christmas cards and is just as constantly searching for new ones. This year, for example, the bright-colored tree ornaments are in high vogue as decorative devices on Christmas cards.

Subscription rate: $2.00 a year; payable in advance.

Dial 2811 with Personals.

Norway offers to accept role of policing a truce in Korea.

The Letter Box

Spout Spring, Va.
December 17, 1951.

To The Editor:
Dear Sir:-

I am very much surprised that none of our Appomattox educational leaders saw fit to comment on President Darden's ideas in compulsory education. I am not competent to do so, but I do have some thoughts which I would like to express.

The most important mutual concern we have is the education of our children. We have public education and if we are to continue a free government it is very essential to understand government and its problems.

Our compulsory school law should be that every child with any degree of intelligence should be compelled to go to school until he or she has obtained a high school education. We can never acquire but a small part of the knowledge that could be obtained. For this reason we should have sufficient knowledge to carry on and develop us as a person.

No child should be put out of school at the end of the seventh grade, but schools should acquire vocational classes to fit the needs of all classes of pupils. What kind of citizens would this country have if we failed to encourage and build for them an educational system that will better prepare them to meet the ever increasing problems of life?

We must keep our children in school and in order to do so, it will be necessary to raise our compulsory law instead of lowering it.

Yours for better educated children.

Mary D. Collins.

May the glorious Christmas season bring you peace and happiness all through the year.

I wish to take this means thanking you for past favors and for your loyal friendship.

I wish you the best of everything for 1952.

J. W. MARTIN

Appomattox, Va.

In the spirit of the blessed day we wish you a completely happy Christmas

MOSES MOTOR COMPANY

APPOMATTOX, VA.